

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-38 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-38 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Claim Objections and Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

It is submitted that the new claims overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections to the previously pending claims. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 13-15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shiода et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0044639). Claims 2, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Natsuno et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0165773). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Staehelin (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0023002). Claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

as being unpatentable over Shioda et al. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Himmel et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0003929) in view of Takayama et al (JP 01-309477) and further in view of Natsuno et al. Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Himmel et al in view of Natsuno et al and further in view of Takayama et al. Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Banerjee et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0028246). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda et al in view of Lee et al (WO 03/014995) and further in view of Kawahara (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0028431). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention, as recited in claim 21 for example, is directed to a distributed-information management method for distributing information to a plurality of mobile terminals. The mobile terminal has a memory, which stores a program, and a processing device. The method includes the steps of monitoring a situation of the mobile terminal and detecting the arrival of a timing for distributing information. A request for distributing the information based on preset contents of the distributed information under control of the processing device. The information distributed from the information distribution server is received and is outputted to an interface under control of the processing device. The processing device starts a waiting program that is stored in the memory, is included in the program, and controls a waiting

screen on the mobile terminal upon detecting the arrival of the timing for distributing the information. The processing device transmits the request for distributing the information in accordance with the waiting program and outputs the distributed information to the waiting screen.

New independent claim 30 is directed to a mobile terminal apparatus for receiving information distributed from an information distribution server and corresponds to method claim 21. New independent claim 29 includes some of the same limitations as independent claim 21, but instead of reciting the waiting program, claim 29 recites that the processing device receives a request for changing an output form of the output information and changes an output form of the distributed information in response to the request for distributing the information in accordance with the program and outputs the changed output to an output interface. New independent claim 38 recites a mobile terminal apparatus corresponding to independent claim 29.

According to the present invention, information regarding an animation, advertisement, etc., can be received at a distribution timing (namely a timing preferable to the user of the mobile terminal). The distribution information is displayed on a waiting screen based on a waiting program of the mobile terminal.

It is submitted that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the present invention. Shioda et al disclose a telephone communication system and a server for providing advertisement information

matching a communication terminal user's preference. Shioda et al disclose that advertisement information is transmitted and received between a communication company facility 20 and the advertisement company server 40 according to a predetermined routine. As shown in Figs. 7-13, information based on a request of the user is obtained from the communication terminal 10 in a routine for sending an off-hook signal S1 or an off-hook detection signal S2 between the communication company facility 20 and the communication terminal 10. The user of the mobile terminal must perform an operation in order to accomplish this task.

More specifically, prior to actually providing the advertisement information, a piece of the advertisement information is obtained from the advertiser terminal. By transmitting and receiving the off-hook signal S1 and off-hook detection signal S2, user-related information is obtained from the communication terminal as a retrieval condition. One piece of the advertisement information retrieved by the user-related information is transmitted to the mobile terminal. Since the communication terminal is operated for the purpose of providing the information, sharing with other functions such as telephone call, e-mail and game is not assumed.

Shioda et al do not disclose or suggest that the communication terminal itself detects a distribution timing and requests information distribution to the server side or that the information distribution is requested to the server side in accordance with a waiting program whose waiting screen is controlled by a communication terminal and that the distributed information is output to the waiting screen.

The deficiencies in the primary reference to Shioda et al are not overcome by resort to the remaining references. Natsuno et al disclose that access is requested to a content server via a relay server from a mobile communication terminal and that HTML data is transmitted from the content server to the communication terminal with ID (advertisement).

Staehelin discloses a system and method for offline advertising, advertisements, news information, entertainment, etc., can be downloaded during online sessions of a user in periods with little or no data transmission (see Abstract). Staehelin fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the presently claimed invention.

Himmel et al disclose that an advertisement is transmitted in accordance with a user's preferred schedule. Himmel et al disclose a primary call center, a mobile phone, a base station and an advertiser call center. The mobile phone is registered to the base station. At the time of registration or after registration, the advertisement is transmitted to a mobile phone 50. The schedule is managed by a user profile/history database 41 in a call center 20. Himmel et al do not disclose or suggest that the mobile terminal itself detects the distribution timing and that the request for distributing the information is executed in accordance with a waiting program. Himmel et al further do not disclose or suggest a situation in which the mobile phone is monitored and the information distribution timing is detected.

Takayama et al disclose the smooth transition of a plurality of telops. Takayama et al do not disclose the concept of overlapping and displaying telop information and image information to a waiting screen that starts on the basis of a waiting program.

Banerjee et al disclose a discount processing system. Banerjee et al does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the presently claimed invention.

Lee et al disclose an accounting method by authentication of a mobile telecommunication company. Lee et al fails to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention mentioned above.

Finally, Kawahara discloses a method for adding product-purchase points that makes it possible for a manufacturer that does not operate directly managed stores to issue points for every purchase made by a consumer regardless of in which store the purchase was made such that the manufacturer can directly exchange information with the consumer. Kawahara also fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the presently claimed invention.

In summary, according to the present invention, information regarding an animation, advertisement, etc., can be received at a distribution timing that is preferable to the user of a mobile terminal. The distribution information is displayed on a waiting screen based on a waiting program stored in the mobile terminal.

This differs substantially from Shioda et al in which an off-hook signal is transmitted to a communication company facility and an operating procedure (an off-

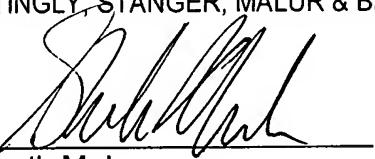
hook operation must be performed by the user of the mobile terminal) for transmitting the off-hook detection signal to the mobile terminal from the communication company facility is required to be performed. The display operation on the waiting screen based on the waiting program of the distributed information is not considered. Therefore, Shioda et al do not disclose or suggest the presently claimed features of the present invention. These deficiencies in Shioda et al are not cured by resort to any of the remaining references for the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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